

Subject: Fwd: Agenda Item 9.1: The Blue Cabin
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: 4/7/2016 5:01 PM
To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

No post. FONVCA review.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Agenda Item 9.1: The Blue Cabin
Date: Thu, 7 Apr 2016 16:35:43 -0700
From: Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
To: Lisa Muri <MuriL@dnv.org>
CC: DNV Mayor and Council <council@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Councillor Muri: **I was delighted to read the history and plans for the Blue Cabin in the agenda package online.** And, the little bit about Mayor Walton's reminiscing about the former squatters' shacks inside the Maplewood Mudflats, in days long past. It was eye-opening for me.

Many people never seem to miss what is there, until it is gone. It is the "fickle fate" of humanity to mourn what is lost -- not focus on what should be saved. It seems so romantic to speak about the things that were: "The good old days". It's a safe place to be. It's human nature. Not all of it bad.

The problem is, the District of North Vancouver seems to not be able to discern between recreational activities and "wreckreational activities" any more... with one running over the others!

We have (had?) such lovely "urban/suburban" forests that are being turned into mincemeat by the extreme freewheeling "community" in the woods. **Only if there were as much care for our natural places, as there is in preserving an old artist's shack from Cates Park, it would be even more wonderful.** Now there's real vision in that.

All I've ever asked for, originally, was for the threatened wetland park, **Mountain View Park** to be preserved and protected. But, upon finding out more than I wished about the so called mountain biking "community" (NSMBA) while trying to urge protection from DNV over the years --- it saddens me that a Mayor and Council, like yourself, would rather support the NSMBA's ecological vandalism as "good community volunteerism" while doling out mega-bucks to such a deceitful organization in our midst who have been proven to break rules and regulations on a regular basis. Since I have files of proof archived, over the dozen years, you can't deny it. It is all there in black and white. Former DNV employees have confirmed it. The NSMBA is a pretty slick but shabby outfit full of con artists. That's what my research has found out over the far too many years of DNV grovelling at the NSMBA's feet. Sad, but true.

Because the NSMBA's bad behaviour is expected-- it only reflects badly on Mayor and Council who keep supporting/funding the NSMBA's ongoing ecological vandalism, **while spouting platitudes and poetry about saving old artists shacks in**

a park... Of course I support the history, and effort to restore this shack. But, I (among many others) would respect this Mayor and Council even more should they work to strictly contain and control such a consumptive sport like mountain biking -- and work to restore what is left our our once lovely natural places -- much chewed up like mincemeat by the freewheeling "community". There is no merit in much of what they are doing. **There is no transparency about the NSMBA's workplans and permits approved by the NSMBA.** The average citizen can't tell what is sanctioned and what it not. And that is DNV's "original sin". So it will continue to be my word (with much proof) and your word. And I am not one of those who take things at face value. The public should have a say in what the NSMBA should and should not be doing. Maintenance is the key word in their Fromme DNV agreement. But, very little, if any of it can be called maintenance -- but all new trail building, while the NSMBA reps have been know to argue with parks staffers about building new trails through pristine areas, because digging in compacted and eroded soil is just too difficult for the NSMBA "chain gangs" in the woods. Every child should learn to emulate these NSMBA "heroes", you think?

Plus, I have never understood the stiff-necked stubbornness of a Mayor and Council who will not direct Parks Staff to decommission/close one very eroded trail (**Lower Griffen Switchback Trail**) that heavily silts the pond in **Mtn. View Park**. If the mountain bikers are using the Lower Griffen Trail, according to Susan Rogers in Parks dept., they don't need the Switchback Trail any longer. We are losing so much of natural value --- if only this park and pond were treated with the same kind of grace and consideration by Mayor and Council as the Blue Cabin is sure to receive on April 11 Council Meeting. It's mindboggling, isn't it?

--Monica Craver--

"The angels keep their ancient places;
 Turn but a stone, and start a wing!
 'Tis ye, 'tis your estranged faces,
 That miss the many-splendoured thing."

~Francis Thompson, 1913